

## Interview with William Ingram

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Interview # 2: July 1, 2014

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue

Ingram: We got off that ship [at Moulmein, Burma] and we walked down to where they had the staging, the railroad already started. I guess it'd been started sometime before we got there. They were waiting on more help (chuckles). Free help. Anyway, they got it. And we went three or four miles or something down into the jungle. We had no food. We had no clothes or nothing. Whatever we had when we got off that ship, that's what we had when we got up there. I think I had, I got a mess kit and a blanket was all I had.

DePue: But still no clothes?

Ingram: No clothes.

DePue: And no shoes?

Ingram: I had a pair of regulation skivvies on, though. That was all. No shoes. And we worked at that base camp there, I worked at that base camp, I think, I don't really know where the base, it had a name for it, it wasn't a number on that camp, but it was right there, just (unintelligible) where that started. And as soon as we got off them trucks, (unintelligible) trucks, took as far as they could down the road, then we got off the trucks and we started walking until we come to that base camp, the main camp there. And then we all lined up there and they didn't know what they was going to do, so they just marched us on down the railroad and we started working that day. Started carrying dirt, back off the ground. We had to carry one square meter of dirt per man in the camp. The guys that went out to work say they had twenty-five cooks and sick bay guys, sick guys as cooks and officers and them, we had to move that, we had a hundred people, we have to move a hundred square meters of dirt on that railroad with a yo-ho pole and a basket. A yo-ho(?) pole is one of them poles that they stick a couple of buckets on each end of a pole and you lift it up on your shoulder and you carry that dirt up and put it on the railroad bed. They used a big circle around.

DePue: So these are wicker basket you're putting this dirt into?

Ingram: Yeah. Uh huh. That's right.

DePue: Did you have a shovel or somebody was scooping it in for you, or how did that work?

Ingram: You're in a line. You go down there and there'd be two or three guys down there. You never stopped. They just kept throwing the, one guy might put two shovels full in, one shovel full in each one, they next guy put another shovel in until you got down to the end down there and they'd be full. Your pack would be full. Then you'd start up the road a little bit. You might have to walk a quarter mile with that damn thing on your shoulder, in that hot weather and everything. It was hell.